

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims and their status as of this Amendment is as follows:

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A device for connecting two tool parts configured for receiving a threaded spindle, each of the tool parts having an associated threaded area, and wherein the device comprises:

a threaded spindle having at least one projecting shoulder the outside diameter of which is slightly smaller than the interior diameter of the associated threaded area of one of the tool parts to approximate said interior diameter such that said at least one projecting shoulder serves to guide said threaded spindle into, and provide axial and angular alignment between, the two tool parts, said at least one projecting shoulder having an a centered and axially positioned tool-receiving element inwardly extending opening configured to effect receive a tool for effecting rotation of said threaded spindle when said at least one projecting shoulder is inserted within a tool part.

7.(Currently amended) The device according to claim 6, wherein the threaded spindle has a first end and a second end and further comprises a projecting shoulder at each said end.

8.(Previously presented) The device according to claim 7, wherein the outside diameter of the projecting shoulder at each end is slightly smaller than the interior threads of the associated threaded area of a corresponding tool part to approximate the interior threads thereof to guide said threaded spindle into, and provide axial and angular alignment between, the two tool parts.

9.(Previously presented) The device according to claim 6, wherein said threaded

spindle has two threaded sections, each being threaded in a direction opposite the other and assigned to corresponding threaded areas of the tool parts.

10.(Previously presented) The device according to claim 9, wherein the threaded sections of the threaded spindle have differing outside diameters for being correspondingly adapted to the differing interior diameters of the two tool parts.

11. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 7, wherein each said projecting shoulder is configured with a ~~tool-receiving element~~ centered and axially inwardly extending opening configured for receiving a tool for rotating said threaded spindle via said projecting shoulder when positioned within the tool parts.

12. (Currently amended) A connection for connecting two tool pieces, the connection comprising:

a first tool piece having a threaded area for receiving a first threaded section of a threaded spindle;

a second tool piece having a threaded area for receiving a second threaded section of a threaded spindle; and

a threaded spindle having a first threaded section for engaging the threaded area of the first tool piece and a second threaded section for engaging the threaded area of the second tool piece, and wherein the threaded spindle comprises at least one shoulder extending beyond one of the threaded sections, said at least one projecting shoulder having an outer diameter slightly smaller than the interior diameter of the threaded area of one of the first tool piece and second tool piece for approximating the interior diameter of said threaded area to thereby guide the threaded section into the threaded area and provide axial and angular alignment of the first and second tool pieces, said at least one projecting shoulder further having a ~~tool-receiving portion~~ centered and axially inwardly extending opening configured for receiving a tool for

effecting rotation of said threaded spindle via said projecting shoulder and
opening when inserted in said first or second tool piece .

13.(Previously presented) The connection according to claim 12, wherein the second tool piece partially nests within the first tool piece.

14. (Previously presented) The connection according to claim 12, wherein the threaded spindle has opposing ends and has a projecting shoulder at each end.

15. (Previously presented) The connection according to claim 14, wherein the outside diameter of each projecting shoulder at each end is slightly smaller than the interior threads of the associated threaded area of a corresponding tool piece to approximate said interior threads to guide said threaded spindle into place and to provide axial and angular alignment between said first and second tool pieces.

16.(Previously presented) The connection according to claim 12, wherein threaded sections of the threaded spindle have opposing orientation and are assigned to corresponding threaded areas of the tool pieces.

17. (Previously presented) The connection according to claim 16, wherein the threaded sections of the threaded spindle have differing outside diameters and the threaded areas of the tool pieces have correspondingly adapted interior diameters.

18. (Currently amended) The connection according to claim 14, wherein each said projecting shoulder of the threaded spindle is configured with a tool-receiving ~~portion~~ portion for effecting rotation of said threaded spindle via said projecting shoulder when positioned within said first and second tool pieces.

19.(New) A device for connecting two tool parts configured for receiving a threaded spindle, each of the tool parts having an associated threaded area, and wherein the device comprises:

a threaded spindle having a first end, a second end and a projecting shoulder extending from each said first end and second end, each said projecting shoulder having an outside diameter which is slightly smaller than the interior diameter of the associated threaded area of one of the tool parts to approximate said interior diameter such that each said projecting shoulder serves to guide said threaded spindle into, and provide axial and angular alignment between, the two tool parts, each said projecting shoulder also being configured with an axially inwardly extending opening for receiving a tool for effecting rotation of said threaded spindle when said at least one projecting shoulder is inserted within a tool part.

20.(New) The device of claim 19 further comprising a threaded section positioned adjacent each said projecting shoulder for threading said threaded spindle into an associated tool part.

21.(New) The device of claim 19 wherein each said threaded section of said threaded spindle is oppositely threaded.